# Munich International Film festival - Ralph Fiennes - Antonio Banderas - Mads Bügger - Bong Joon-ho

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Munich International Film festival (German: Filmfest München) is the largest summer film festival in Germany and second only in size and importance to the Berlinale. It has been held annually since 1983 and takes place in late June. It presents feature films and feature-length documentaries. The festival is also proud of the role it plays in discovering talented and innovative young filmmakers. With the exception of retrospectives, tributes and homages, all of the films screened are German premieres and many are European and world premieres.

With over 200 feature films and feature-length documentaries on more than 18 screens, Filmfest München attracts approximately 80 000 movie lovers each year. It accredits more than 600 members of the international press and media as well as over 2500 film industry professionals. It has always been a popular meeting place for industry insiders throughout Germany and Europe. The festival center is located at Munich's cultural center Gasteig, where screenings, panels, ceremonies and discussions take place and the festival offices are located. There are several participating movie theaters in the downtown area.

The director of Filmfest München is Diana Iljine, who took over in August 2011. Former directors are Andreas Ströhl (2004-2011) and Eberhard Hauff, who ran the festival from its outset. The festival is hosted by Internationale Münchner Filmwochen GmbH, whose shareholders are the City of Munich, the Free State of Bavaria (President of Bavaria Markus Söder), the Bayerischer Rundfunk (Bavarian Broadcasting, represented by director Ulrich Wilhelm) and the SPIO (the German film industry association represented by Thomas Negele. The IMF also hosts the annual International Festival of Film Schools (German: Internationales Festival der Filmhochschulen München) Filmschoolfest in November.

This year, two Hollywood stars received the CineMerit Award:

The Briton Ralph Fiennes presented in Munich his third directorial work "Nurejew - The White Crow", in which he also plays the main role of the ballet master Alexander Pushkin.

The Spanish actor Antonio Banderas at the Munich Film Festival, he presented the new film directed by Pedro Almodóvar "suffering and glory," for whose main role Banderas was just awarded at the Cannes Film Festival with the prestigious Actor Award.

Bong Joon-ho (Korean: ???, is a South Korean film director and screenwriter whose films include the crime drama Memories Of Murder (2003), the monster movie The Host (2006) and the sci-fi action film Snowpiercer (2013), with the latter two being among the highest-grossing films of all time in South Korea. He has had two films in competition at the Cannes Film Festival: Okja, which debuted at the 2017 Cannes Film Festival, and Parasite, which won the Palme d'Or at the 2019 Cannes Film Festival. He became the first Korean director to win the award.

In 2017, Metacritic ranked Bong #13 on its list of the 25 best film directors of the 21st century. His films feature uncomfortable subject matter, black humor and sudden mood shifts.

His first two films, Danes for Bush and The Red Chapel, are ironic documentaries filmed in the United States and North Korea respectively.

Mads Brügger a Danish filmmaker and TV host in October 2011 released a new documentary, The Ambassador, about the trading of diplomatic titles in Africa. Brügger impersonated a Liberian ambassador by purchasing a new identity on a black market, and then proceeded to expose the ease with which people holding diplomatic titles can exploit the gem trade.

As result of the revelations in the documentary the government of Liberia has taken legal steps to prosecute Brügger and the other participants, due to the embarrassment his work has done to the country. However, as of July 2012 the Danish government has not been presented with a formal demand for the extradition of Brügger.

Brügger directed Cold Case Hammarskjöld (premiere at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival), which is a documentary film about the death of UN General Secretary Dag Hammarskjöld in a plane crash in 1961. In January 2019 Brügger reported in three articles in The Guardian about his findings.

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